

REMARKS

Status Of Application

Claims 1-34, 36-43 and 45-52 are pending in the application; the status of the claims is as follows:

Claims 1-34, 36-38, 40-43 and 45 are allowed.

Claims 39 and 46-49 are withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 50-52 are rejected under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim Amendments

Claim 27 has been amended to correct a spelling error. Claim 50 has been amended to correct matters of form. These changes are not necessitated by the prior art, are unrelated to the patentability of the invention over the prior art, and do not introduce any new matter.

Allowable Subject Matter

The allowance of claims 1-31, 37 and 38, by the Examiner, is noted with appreciation.

The objection to claims 32-34, 36, 40-43 and 45 in paragraph 4 of the Office Action as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, is noted. Applicants respectfully request clarification or withdrawal of this objection. Claim 32 is an independent claim. Claim 33 is dependent upon claim 32. Claim 34 is an independent claim. Claim 36 is dependent upon claim 34. Claim 40 is an independent claim. Claims 41 and 42 are dependent upon claim 40. Claim 43 is an independent claim. Claim 45 is dependent upon claim 43. None of these claims are dependent upon a rejected base claim. It is noted that

these claims have been indicated as being allowable in the Office Action Summary. It appears that paragraph 4 of the Office Action was included in the Office Action inadvertently.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection to claims 32-34, 36, 40-43 and 45 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejection

The rejection of claims 50-52 under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant(s) regard as the invention, is respectfully traversed based on the following.

Claim 50 has been amended to address the informalities cited in the Office Action in paragraph 2. No informalities in claims 51 and 52 were cited in the Office Action. These claims are included in this rejection due to their dependence upon claim 50. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 50-52 now fully comply with 35 U.S.C. §112.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 50-52 under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant(s) regard as the invention, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Wherefore, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and an early reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

This Amendment does not increase the number of independent claims, does not increase the total number of claims, and does not present any multiple dependency claims.

Application No. 10/085,454
Amendment dated January 11, 2006
Reply to Office Action of October 12, 2005

Accordingly, no fee based on the number or type of claims is currently due. However, if a fee, other than the issue fee, is due, please charge this fee to SIDLEY AUSTIN LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260.


Any fee required by this document other than the issue fee, and not submitted herewith should be charged to SIDLEY AUSTIN LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

If an extension of time is required to enable this document to be timely filed and there is no separate Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, this document is to be construed as also constituting a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for a period of time sufficient to enable this document to be timely filed.

Any other fee required for such Petition for Extension of Time and any other fee required by this document pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, other than the issue fee, and not submitted herewith should be charged to SIDLEY AUSTIN LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

Respectfully submitted,

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